

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Mark C. Boomer et al.	Group Art Unit: 3733 Examiner: Mary C. Hoffman
Application No.:	10/709,246	
Filed:	April 23, 2004	
Entitled:	SPINAL IMPLANT CONNECTORS	
Docket No.:	101896-242 (DEP5294)	

**Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed via EFS-Web to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

April 26, 2007

By: /Lisa Adams/

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

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Commissioner for Patents  
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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated March 27, 2007.

The Examiner requires restriction of the above-referenced application to one of the following inventions:

Group I: claims 1-26 and 59, drawn to a connector;

Group II: claims 27-36, drawn to an installation tool; and

Group III: claims 37-58 and 60-65, drawn to a spinal fixation kit/system.

Applicants elect the Group I claims (claims 1-26 and 59). Accordingly, claims 27-58 and 60-65 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner further requires election of one of the following "patentably distinct" species:

<u>Connector/Clamp</u>	<u>Installation Tool</u>
Species A: Figures 1A-1C;	Species I: Figures 1F-1G; and
Species B: Figure 1E;	Species J: Figures 1H, 1I, and 1J.
Species C: Figures 2A-2B;	
Species D: Figures 3A-3B;	
Species E: Figures 4A-4B;	
Species F: Figures 5A-5C;	
Species G: Figures 6A-6C; and	
Species H: Figures 8A-8B.	

The Examiner submits that no claims are generic.

Applicants elect Species B, Figure 1E. Claims 1-6, 11-19, and 22-25. Accordingly, claims 7-10, 20-21, and 59 are further withdrawn from consideration.

In sum, claims 1-6, 11-19, and 22-25 are subject to examination, and remaining claims 7-10, 20-21, and 26-65 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 26, 2007

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